



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIDLAND MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN NATIONWIDE OPERATION EMISSARY CASE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that Donald Ray Wilson of Midland, Texas, pleaded guilty to possessing images—hard-copy and digital— of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The charge carries a minimum ten and maximum twenty year sentence in federal prison. The government is requesting a sentencing enhancement due to the defendant's 1984 conviction of Indecency With a Child.

On August 16, 2006, agents with Bureau of Customs and Immigration Enforcement ("ICE") executed a search warrant at Wilson's residence where ICE agents saw and recovered two images of child pornography framed and hung on the wall. They also observed a screensaver "slide show" running on his computer that contained about forty images of child pornography. A forensic examination of the defendant's computer led to the recovery of approximately eight hundred additional images of child pornography.

"Those who possess child pornography victimize and revictimize innocent and precious children," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. Sutton also added that "the internet is an incredibly valuable tool but unfortunately sexual predators, like Mr. Wilson, use it to hurt our children. Recently, federal criminal law in this area has been greatly strengthened and we will use very legal tool available to lock up these criminals and ensure children are protected."

This guilty plea resulted from a nationwide investigation known as Operation Emissary, which focused on a commercial website offering access to videos and images of hardcore child pornography. The website, which was accessible via the Internet, alerted would be subscribers that subscribing to the website was illegal and warned them to be discreet about their purchase. The arrests represent individuals who subscribed to the website over a period of approximately 2 to 3 months at the end of 2005 and early 2006. Arrests have been made in more than 22 states to date. In addition, more than 225 search warrants have been executed on the personal computers of individual subscribers, and dozens of additional arrests are expected as that evidence is reviewed. The arrests include a significant number of individuals who have been previously convicted of sex offenses against minors, and have led to the discovery of individuals who have been actively molesting children. More than one dozen convicted sex offenders have been arrested to date.

This case is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen.

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